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[Management of Dangerous Conditions – Risk Assessment](#)

[Safety of Public Properties – PRISMtv Webcast](#)

[Risk Management Strategies to Avoid Liability and Minimize](#)

[Exposure for Dangerous Conditions of Public Property – PRISMtv Webcast](#)

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Dangerous Conditions: Signage

by Sarah Bruno, ARM

Despite efforts to mitigate liability from public property, dangerous condition exposures exist and losses are a reality for many public agencies. California Government Code defines a dangerous condition as “a condition of property that creates a substantial (as distinguished from a minor, trivial or insignificant) risk of injury when such property or adjacent property is used with due care in a manner in which it is reasonably foreseeable that it will be used.” Dangerous conditions may occur on public properties such as; construction sites, playgrounds, roadways, bodies of water, and high voltage equipment.

To address this common exposure, frequent assessments of public property are an important step. Dangerous conditions must be identified so that they can be addressed. The most effective way to address dangerous conditions is to eliminate the exposure altogether, for example in the case of a dilapidated structure - demolition of the structure would eliminate the risk. While this is the most effective, it is often not feasible either because of a lack of funds or because the dangerous condition is a necessary component of

public infrastructure, for example a bridge, jetty or antenna. In this case, agencies should take steps to mitigate the exposure.

Mitigating dangerous conditions that exist on agency property includes:

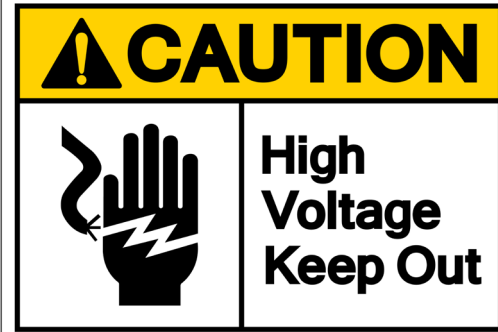
- Limiting access (i.e. fencing, locked doors, security)
- Periodic documented inspections
- Reasonable system for addressing identified dangerous conditions
- Posting conspicuous warning signs



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Appropriate signage warns the public of the potential danger associated with the dangerous condition. Signage should:

- Include a 'reasonable warning of the danger'
- Be clearly visible (contrasting colors, large type, illuminated)
- Contain clear language
- Include graphic/visual aid
- Be inspected and maintained



While dangerous conditions are present there are steps agencies can take to mitigate or even eliminate the exposure. For additional assistance with dangerous conditions contact [PRISM Risk Control](#).